

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for modifying a current file associated with a file name comprising:
receiving a request to modify said current file;
creating a new file, wherein said new file is a replica of said current file and wherein said new file is associated with a file descriptor;
modifying said new file in response to said request to modify said current file, wherein said new file is only accessible by an entity that sent said request to modify said ~~new~~ current file; and
linking said file descriptor to said file name, such that said new file replaces said current file.

59. (Original) The method of Claim 58, wherein, prior to linking said file descriptor to said file name, said current file continues to be capable of being accessed.

60-62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for modifying a current file associated with a file name comprising:
a mechanism for receiving a request to modify said current file;
a mechanism for creating a new file, wherein said new file is a replica of said current file and wherein said new file is associated with a file descriptor;
a mechanism for modifying said new file in response to said request to modify said current file, wherein said new file is only accessible by an entity that sent said request to modify said ~~new~~ current file; and
a mechanism for linking said file descriptor to said file name, such that said new file replaces said current file.

64. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 63, wherein, prior to linking said file descriptor to said file name, said current file continues to be capable of being accessed.

65-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to modify a current file associated with a file name, said computer-readable medium comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a request to modify said current file;

instructions for causing one or more processors to create a new file, wherein said new file is a replica of said current file and wherein said new file is associated with a file descriptor;

instructions for causing one or more processors to modify said new file in response to said request to modify said current file, wherein said new file is only accessible by an entity that sent said request to modify said ~~new~~ current file; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to link said file descriptor to said file name, such that said new file replaces said current file.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 68, wherein, prior to causing one or more processors to link said file descriptor to said file name, said current file continues to be capable of being accessed.

70. (New) The method of Claim 58, wherein:
said file descriptor that is associated with said new file is a new file descriptor;
said current file is associated with a current file descriptor; and

linking said file descriptor to said file name, such that said new file replaces said current file, further comprises:

linking said new file descriptor to said file name, such that said new file descriptor replaces said current file descriptor and said new file replaces said current file.

71. (New) The method of Claim 58, wherein:
said current file is associated with a plurality of data blocks;
based on creating said new file, said new file is associated with said plurality of data blocks such that both said current file and said new file are associated with said plurality of data blocks;
modifying said new file in response to said request to modify said current file further comprises:
associating at least one additional data block with said new file in place of at least one original data block of said plurality of data blocks, wherein:
said at least one additional data block is not associated with said current file; and
the content of said at least one additional data block is based on said request to modify said current file; and
as a result of linking said file descriptor to said file name, said file descriptor is associated with said at least one additional data block and with said plurality of data blocks excluding said at least one original data block.
72. (New) The method of Claim 58, wherein an operating system receives the request to modify said current file, creates said new file, modifies said new file, and links said file descriptor to said file name.
73. (New) The apparatus of Claim 63, wherein:
said file descriptor that is associated with said new file is a new file descriptor;
said current file is associated with a current file descriptor; and

the mechanism for linking said file descriptor to said file name, such that said new file replaces said current file, further comprises:
a mechanism for linking said new file descriptor to said file name,
such that said new file descriptor replaces said current file descriptor and said new file replaces said current file.

74. (New) The apparatus of Claim 63, wherein:
said current file is associated with a plurality of data blocks;
based on creating said new file, said new file is associated with said plurality of data blocks such that both said current file and said new file are associated with said plurality of data blocks;
the mechanism for modifying said new file in response to said request to modify said current file further comprises:
a mechanism for associating at least one additional data block with said new file in place of at least one original data block of said plurality of data blocks, wherein:
said at least one additional data block is not associated with said current file; and
the content of said at least one additional data block is based on said request to modify said current file; and
as a result of linking said file descriptor to said file name, said file descriptor is associated with said at least one additional data block and with said plurality of data blocks excluding said at least one original data block.
75. (New) The apparatus of Claim 63, wherein an operating system includes the mechanism for receiving the request to modify said current file, the mechanism for creating said new file, the mechanism for modifying said new file, and the mechanism for linking said file descriptor to said file name.
76. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 68, wherein:
said file descriptor that is associated with said new file is a new file descriptor;

said current file is associated with a current file descriptor; and
the instructions for linking said file descriptor to said file name, such that
said new file replaces said current file, further comprises:
instructions for linking said new file descriptor to said file name, such
that said new file descriptor replaces said current file
descriptor and said new file replaces said current file.

77. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 68, wherein:
said current file is associated with a plurality of data blocks;
based on creating said new file, said new file is associated with said plurality
of data blocks such that both said current file and said new file are
associated with said plurality of data blocks;
the instructions for modifying said new file in response to said request to
modify said current file further comprises:
instructions for associating at least one additional data block with said
new file in place of at least one original data block of said
plurality of data blocks, wherein:
said at least one additional data block is not associated with
said current file; and
the content of said at least one additional data block is based
on said request to modify said current file; and
as a result of linking said file descriptor to said file name, said file descriptor
is associated with said at least one additional data block and with said
plurality of data blocks excluding said at least one original data block.

78. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 68, wherein an operating
system includes the instructions for receiving the request to modify said
current file, the instructions for creating said new file, the instructions for
modifying said new file, and the instructions for linking said file descriptor to
said file name.